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HART, S. H. *Wool; the raw materials of the woollen and worsted industries.* (Philadelphia: The Philadelphia Textile School of the Pennsylvania Museum and School of Industrial Art. 1917. Pp. xviii, 228.)

LEVERETT, F. and SARDESON, F. W. *Surface formations and agricultural conditions of northeastern Minnesota.* (Minneapolis: Geological Survey. 1917. Pp. 72.)

MACNUTT, J. S. *The modern milk problem; in sanitation, economics, and agriculture.* (New York: Macmillan. 1917. Pp. 258. \$2.)

MERRILL, F. A. *Tenancy in the South.* (Athens, Ga.: State Normal School. 1916. Pp. 11.)

A serviceable study based upon data of the federal census of 1900 and that of 1910. During the decade there was a slight increase in the percentage of farms in the South operated by tenants. Virginia and Louisiana were the only southern states that increased the ownership cultivation of farms. It is stated that the average life of a tenant upon southern farms is about one and a half years.

NOURSE, E. G. *Outlines of agricultural economics. A class-book of questions and problems.* (Chicago: Univ. Chicago Press. 1917. Pp. 95. 50c.)

O'BRIEN, C. *Food preparedness for the United States.* (Boston: Little, Brown. 1917. Pp. 118. 60c.)

The author made an investigation in the latter part of 1916 of economic conditions in Germany, particularly with reference to the food supply. This book emphasizes the factors and the lessons to be learned from the experience of European belligerents in regard to food control.

SMITH, S. S. *The mining industry in the territory of Alaska during the calendar year, 1915.* Bulletin 142. (Washington: Dept. of the Interior, Bureau of Mines. 1917. Pp. 65.)

STEBBING, E. P. *British forestry. Its present position and outlook after the war.* (London: Murray. 1916. Pp. xxv, 257.)

TOMKINSON, C. W. *State help for agriculture.* (London: Unwin. 1917. 3s. 6d.)

TURNOR, C. *The land and the empire.* (London: Murray. 1917. Pp. 144. 3s. 6d.)

### Manufacturing Industries

*Household Manufactures in the United States, 1640-1860. A Study in Industrial History.* By ROLLA MILTON TRYON. (Chicago: The University of Chicago Press. 1917. Pp. vii, 413. \$2.00.)

In this study of household manufacture the term is limited to

the fabrication of goods in the home, from raw materials produced upon the premises, for use in the home; and, of such goods, only those are included which are now generally made in factories. Using the term in this restricted sense, the author aims (1) to show what influences affected household manufacture in the period under discussion, (2) to describe its extent and importance in the family economy, (3) to "connect the subject with the general economic and political history of the nation, and to portray it as one of the dominant elements in the life of this country for nearly two centuries."

The book contains eight chapters of very unequal merit. After an introductory chapter, chapter II discusses Factors Affecting Household Manufactures in the Colonies. This chapter suffers in the poor organization of the treatment of British and colonial legislative acts affecting manufacture, and from a lack of careful interpretation. The author apparently follows Beer in his interpretation of the effects of the British commercial legislation. It is a matter of note that several pages are devoted to restrictions, bounties, and premiums, and less than one page to a coherent discussion of the most important economic influence of the period, so far, at least, as the northern and middle colonies were concerned—the West India trade. It is a weakness of the entire book that it fails throughout to take sufficient account of the effect which underlying economic conditions must have had upon household manufacture, and fails, in consequence, to give a correct picture of the part played by this type of organization in the economic life of the nation.

By way of contrast, chapter III, The Status of Household Manufactures in the Colonies, is excellent. Chiefly devoted to a description of the extent and importance of household manufacture to the family economy during the colonial period, and the methods of manufacture in the home, it shows careful search of documentary records and skilful assembling of materials from original sources with those of other secondary writers. Much the same may be said of chapter VI, The Products of the Family Factory, which deals with the entire period included in the title. In these two chapters, mainly descriptive, the author is at his best. One feels, however, that the reliability of the statements of contemporaries is not always carefully weighed, and the conclusions based upon them a little doubtful in consequence. These chapters suffer also by the narrow definition given to household manu-

facture. The omission of the partial family manufacture of many goods partly made outside makes it impossible to weigh accurately the relative importance of household manufacture in the family economy.

Chapter IV is devoted to the period from 1784 to 1809, during which the author regards household manufacture as "the dominant factor in the struggle for industrial independence." One marvels that there is in this chapter no discussion whatever, save by indirection, of the effect upon manufacture of the carrying trade which fell into our hands at the outbreak of the Napoleonic Wars.

Chapters V and VIII, *A Year's Output of the Family Factory* and *The Passing of the Family Factory*, consist mainly of tables of statistics. Those in the latter chapter greatly need compression and are not scientifically used. They are cited to show the decline of household manufacture through the comparison of census statistics for 1840, 1850, and 1860 by value of goods made, making no reference to changes in the general level of prices or for decrease in the value of household-made goods due to the very improvements in factory manufacture which they are intended to indicate. Cloth made in the household would of course be worth less in competition with factory-made cloth. The figures show an undoubted decline, but additional qualifications should have been placed upon their interpretation.

Chapter VII, *The Transition from Family- to Shop- to Factory-Made Goods*, contains an interesting analysis of the stages of industrial evolution. Tryon divides the stages into (1) family, (2) itinerant-supplementary, (3) shop, (4) mill, small-factory, and (5) large factory stage. One is again surprised that the function of the merchant as a step between the handicraft and the factory stage is almost completely neglected, except for the peddler organization.

The book will be of value to the economic historian as a convenient and serviceable storehouse of data bearing on household manufacture. No other single volume known to the reviewer contains so much source material on the subject for the country as a whole. Unfortunately it is not well organized; it lacks proportion and emphasis, and is conspicuously weak in interpretation. The author's generalizations and conclusions are sometimes inconsistent with data cited elsewhere in the book, and there are occasional careless statements, in which the author evidently does not say what he means. These latter defects are apparently due

to haste in preparation. A revision along these lines would considerably increase the serviceability of the book as an "adjunct to history courses in elementary, high, and normal schools, and to certain courses in the department of home economics and household arts," a use for which the book is in part intended by its author.

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*Dressmaking as a Trade for Women in Massachusetts.* By MAY ALLINSON. Publications of the Department of Research of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, Economic Relations of Women, Vol. IV. United States Department of Labor Statistics, Whole No. 193; Women in Industry Series, No. 9. (Washington: Superintendent of Documents. 1916. Pp. 180.)

Miss Allinson's study of dressmaking as a trade for women was made in coöperation with the Boston Trade School for Girls and reflects throughout the open-minded educator's point of view. Dressmaking as a trade has much to recommend it in comparison with other employments for women—good wages, generally good surroundings, a recognized social status, an unusual field for advancement, an occupation useful in itself to the worker, her family, and friends.

An interesting chapter of the monograph traces the historical development of the trade through its several phases from hearthstone to factory, showing, nevertheless, the persistent survival of primitive forms. Side by side with wholesale manufacture stand today the custom shop, catering to those who desire exclusive product with individuality and fine handwork, and the day worker who goes from home to home.

It is perhaps trite to say that the problems of the dressmaking trade are questions of capital, credit, and labor. Of these the labor question is far the most important. With the development of the trade there has come increasing demand for skill in the worker while modern business pressures, crushing out the old apprentice system, have virtually deprived the young worker of the possibility of learning her trade in the shop, where there is no longer time to teach and the whole tendency is to make her a specialized worker. So acute has this situation become, it is claimed, that it even "menaces the existence of the industry."